ASIFA EAST

ANYMATOR

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ANIMATED ARTS

Asifa East Presents

AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL SPORN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1991

STARTING 6:00 PM

N.Y.U. 721 BROADWAY (CORNER WAVERLY + B'WAY)

LEO JAFFE THEATRE (THROUGH LOBBY TO RIGHT)

OCTOBER 1991

THE TORCH IS PASSED

by Howard Beckerman

After more than 20 years as president of ASIFA-East, Dick Rauh has relinquished his post. Just as he once picked up the reins from the president before him, Shamus Culhane, he has now handed them over to the new president, Linda Simensky. The occasion for the formal transfer occurred at a gathering of board members, back in July, at Dick's place in Connecticut. On a day set aside for the enjoyment of food, drink, sport and even a board meeting, surrounded by huge trees and various other flora and fauna, Dick quietly explained the various responsibilities that went with the position.

This wasn't the normal place of meeting for the ASIFA-East board. More accustomed to assembling amid the clutter of various animation studios, the jaunt to Connecticut was at the invitation of Dick and his gracious wife Harriette. It was fitting, though, because for the years that Dick Rauh was president he hosted the board meetings, the ballot countings, the monthly newsletter mailings, all at the Optical House.

Many of us remember the times that Dick had to dash from the meeting to counter problems that came under his jurisdiction as the Optical House partner in charge of graphics. Well, times change. The Optical House, with new owners, is now the Effects House, our board meetings are held at Buzzco Associates and Dick is studying chemistry and botany and making drawings of plants and flowers. This is an interest he has for a long while but only now has the time to pursue.

During Dick's presidency the yearly festival began and took hold. Animator Pete Dakis suggested the idea to the board in 1969 (or was it '68), and every year since then it was Dick Rauh who explained the balloting process at the voting gathering and then, on award night, introduced the winners and gave out the diplomas. The ASIFA-East festival is today the longest continuously running, yearly event of its kind in the world.

Dick will drop around from time to time, but botany and grandchildren may take precedence. Now it's Linda's turn. Her duties in programming at Nickelodeon may take up time but her interest in animation and ASIFA-East are strong and sincere and we welcome her as the new president. Good luck Linda.

Animated films to be shown at the
29th NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL
September 20 - October 6.

"NEW FANGLED" by George Griffin - Oct 5

"THE VISIBLE COMPENDIUM"
by Larry Jordon - Sept 26 & 28

"FAST FOOD MATADOR"
by Vincent Cafarelli & Candy Kugel - Oct 6

"AFTER THE FALL" by Joanna Priestly - Sept 27 & 28

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" (work in progress) -
Walt Disney Productions - Sept 29 & Oct 2

A Great Lady Passes

BY PRESCOTT WRIGHT, SAN FRANCISCO - JULY 1991

One of my great joys in some 20 years in animation was meeting a fine lady whose name was Joy. I met Joy Batchelor and John Halas at the Festival D'annency in 1971. I had known of their great animated films "ANIMAL FARM," adapted from the George Orwell classic; the "HOFFNUNG SYMPHONY" and RUDDIGORE which had their way with opera, and their award winning short "AUTOMANIA 2000," made in 1963 which was uncomfortably prophetic. These were films which put popular English animation onto the world's screens and into award circles. Many called this team the Disney of Europe. Joy and John, of course, thought that their work was of it own excellence quite different from Disney's, and indeed it was. Joy was a delightful lady who always greeted you with a smile and a cheery phrase and she added sunshine and often her sharp wit to many of our lives. Her merriment and sociality gave little hint of her serious contributions to the art and techniques of animation, nor to her most professional approach to the work she and John collaborated on.

Joy met John Halas in the late 30's in the British animated films company. John had recently come from his animation studies and work in Hungary. As kindred though not identical spirits, they soon got married and became "Halas & Batchelor" studio that later was to become London's main animation studio where new talent was trained, new animation techniques were invented and developed, and where many fine films were produced. They worked together on educational films and commercials, as well as producing short films for entertainment. Then the war intervened and they turned their talents to making informational and training films for the British Ministry of Information during which they created several new characters. They made the first complete British technicolor film "HANDLING THE SHIPS" for the Admiralty. And, like many studios, the war gave Halas and Batchelor the impetous to return to the private sector with new energy and ideas. In 1954, their innovative "ANIMAL FARM" impressed the world not only with colorful animation but with proof that a serious philosophical allegory could be successfully wrought in animation and still entertain.

While contributing to abet and lend her sharp eye to developments at Halas and Batchelor and later to John's enterprise, The Educational Film Centre, Joy retired from active production in the late 70's, but she continued to be involved with the animation festivals, counseling young animators, and ASIFA work. Joy died in May after some years of illness. I and her many friends and colleagues will miss the support and joy she gave to us as well as the occasional well turned but lovingly delivered chiding when we were off course. It seems that our great ladies in animation are rarely heralded, but here's ruffles and flourishes for you Joy Batchelor.

The scheduled tribute and retrospective of the animation of John Halas has been cancelled. John is ill and is unable to travel at this time. Asifa-east wishes John a speedy recovery and we hope to have him meet with us later this season.

If you would like to send John a card you can write him at:

John Halas
Halas & Batchelor, ltd.
5 & 7 Kean St
Covent Gardens, London WC2B-4AT

FILMFESTIVALS

Part ONE by David Ehrlich

This is the first in a second series of articles on upcoming film festivals which feature sections of animation. This year there are simply less quality animated shorts being produced abroad. Artists in previously state-supported studios have been forced out of personal or artistic films and into commercial work. Although this has raised the level of commercials around the world, it has unfortunately lowered both the quality and quantity of fine shorts entered in international film festivals. What this means for those of you making noncommercial films is that the chances of acceptance and recognition at festivals is greater. So, this may be your year!

1) **AMADORA CARTOON FESTIVAL** (Portugal). October 31-November 7 There is an "Experimental" category, as well as categories for publicity films, educational films, first films, children's films, and the usual breakdowns of 5-, 10- and 40- minute lengths. I can't imagine that this small new festival will have many entrants, so you might consider sending your work. They announce that they will pay transport costs. No deadline is mentioned in the forms!? But I assume you could enter until October 1st. Amadora Cartoon 91, 2700 Amadora, Portugal, TEL:(01)494-1293. FAX:(01)492-2082.

2) **ASBURY FILM FESTIVAL** (NYC). October 25-27 I don't know much about this festival. There's a hefty $30 entry fee for such a small event, but you never know. It's in NYC, and someone significant to your future career may stop in from the street, see your film, and promote you to stardom. Deadline is September 23rd. Asbury Film Festival, 147 West 25th St., 8th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10001. (No phone number given)

3) **BILBAO DOCUMENTARY AND SHORT FILM FESTIVAL** (SPAIN) November 25-30 This is a serious Shorts Festival, in their 33rd year (!), with an animation category and cash prizes. It attracts fine animation from around the world, which it returns, unharmed, within one month of the festival, along with a bill for return postage. As with most foreign festivals, there is no entry fee. Deadline for entry forms is September 15th, but you may get them there by October. Films are due by October 15th. BDASFF, Colon de Larreategui, 37-4, Apdo 579, 48009 Bilbao, Spain. Tel:34-4-424-5507, FAX:34-4-4245624

4) **BUCKS COUNTY FILM TOUR** (PA) Tour: November, 91- June '92 This is not a festival but a tour of films, selected by area judges. The tour includes over ten sites, mostly in Pennsylvania, and films selected for the tour share both screening fees and prize money. Judges prefer independent animation, with experimental work usually given the nod. There is a $25 entry fee, with a deadline of Sept.25th. You may send tapes for selection. Bucks Co Film Tour, c/o Film Dept, Bucks County Free Library, 150 South Pine Street, Doylestown, PA 18901. TEL:(215)348-3566(day); 345-5663(ev). FAX:(215)348-3569.

5) **CINANIMA** (Portugal) November 12-17 You may remember that last year I enthusiastically endorsed this festival, encouraging you to send your work. Then, in my later article on my visit to this festival, I apologized for my enthusiasm and praised only the beautiful beaches and warmth of the people. At the Annecy Festival in June, I met with the organizers of this festival and gave them all the criticisms I had reported to you. They listened carefully, took notes, and, because they truly wish ASIFA support in the future, they promised to improve. I'm sure things will not be perfect this time around, but I still trust them and want to recommend this festival, in the hopes that a large number of films sent by Americans will further encourage them with our trust that they will improve. I sincerely hope I will not have to apologize to you again in a few months. Deadline is September 22nd, but you can be a bit late. CINANIMA 91, AP.43, 4500 Espinho Codex, Portugal. TEL:02-724611/02-721621. FAX: 02-726015

MOMA
ANIMATION PROGRAMS

From November 1 through November 11, MOMA will present a number of animation programs in the Titus 2 theater.

Pinschewer's "THE MIRACLE"

NOVEMBER 1:
FILMS OF JULIUS PINSCHEWER
3:00 & 6:00

Julius was the pioneer producer/art director of animated films for half a century, working in commercial animation along with such artists such as Lotte Reiniger, Walter Ruttman, Guido Seeber and Rudi Klemm. Pinschewer's studio used multi-techniques: drawings, puppets, cut outs, trick photography and animation of objects.

Some films to be included in this program include: "DIE BARCAROLE" with Lotte Reiniger & "DAS WIEDERGEFUNDENE" (Paradise Found) with Walter Ruttman.

NOVEMBER 2 - 5:
SWISS ANIMATION 1972-1991
PROGRAM 1: SATURDAY, NOV 2 AT 2:30 & SUNDAY, NOV 3 AT 5:00
PROGRAM 2: SATURDAY, NOV 2 AT 5:30 & MONDAY, NOV 4 AT 3:00
PROGRAM 3: SUNDAY, NOV 3 AT 2:30 & TUESDAY, NOV 5 AT 6:00

3 programs of diverse approaches in animation will be presented by the Swiss Animation Group. The group is comprised of French-influenced and German-influenced filmmakers. The French-influenced films of Switzerland leans towards the artistic side of animation while the German-influenced films invest more in equipment techniques and are abundant with commercial productions.

NOVEMBER 4 - LARRY JORDAN
6:30

Larry Jordan will be present to screen his animated romantic & impressionistic works. Jordan's earliest films were modeled after Brakhage's early "psychodramas," while his later films are collage for which he is most well known for. Some selections to be screened include, "THE ONE ROMANTIC VENTURE OF EDWARD," "IN A SUMMER GARDEN," & "THE VISIBLE COMPENDIUM."

NOVEMBER 8 & 9: BEST OF ANNECY
NOV 8: 3:00 & 6:00
NOV 9: 2:30 & 5:00

A spectacular selection of animated films from the 18th Annual International Film Festival -1991. Some films to be screened include: "PINK KOMKOMMER" - Marv Newland, "ENTRE DEUX SOEURS" - Caroline Leaf, "CAVALETTE" - Bruno Bozzetto, & Oscar winning "CREATURE COMFORTS" - Nick Park.

NOVEMBER 10: LEIF MARCUSSEN
2:00 & 5:00

Leif will be on hand to introduce a retrospective of his work. He is a Danish filmmaker and the 1990 recipient of the Norman Mclaren award for animation. His work is a mixture of animation, computer generated images and other visual aids for revolting against the rules of language in cinema to create a fusion of motion, imagery and music.

NOVEMBER 11: "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SHAMUS CULHANE!"
6:00

Shamus Culhane, celebrating his 83rd birthday, will introduce a selection of animated films which encompasses productions produced at studios including Fleischer, Disney, Paramount and his own. Shamus has worked with veterans such as Walter Lantz, Frank Capra, & Chuck Jones and whose talents has touched Pluto, the Seven Dwarfs, Betty Boop, & Koko.

No Honoraria, No Film

by Flip Johnson

I was recently asked to show my new film "PULP," in the Best of Annency 91' Tour. This program will play in four North American venues including La Cinemateque Quebecoise, The Museum of Fine Arts - Boston, The Pacific Film Archive, and in the Museum of Modern Art - NYC. Moma will run their shows from November 8 through November 10. The organizers of this tour do not offer to pay honoraria or rental fees to the filmmakers. I believe it is unfair to ask any filmmaker to participate under these conditions, so I have decided not to participate in this year's program.

This appears to be an ongoing problem, as I was asked in 1984 to participate under similar circumstances. Back then, I consented, hoping that a strongly worded letter might change the climate for future participants. Seeing now that things have not changed, I feel obligated to withdraw my film.

In order to prompt change or at least discussion, I offered to show my film this year for no fee if a one sentence statement of my position was inserted into the program. That option was not accepted.

I think it is important that people know that their admission monies will not be supporting the continuing work of any of these filmmakers. At MOMA for example, there is no additional charge to purchase the film tickets, but film patrons will have to pay a seven dollar admission fee to enter the museum before seeing each part of this program. The museum pays UPS, Fed-Ex, Con-Edison, the projectionist, and the curators. Everyone gets paid except the artists, whose work, devotion and creativity are at the very heart of this program.

I understand that shows like this may not generate sufficient revenues to cover all costs, and that it is good to make our work available to the public. But I say don't put any more burden on the artists! It isn't at all clear whether giving our work away stimulates more demand or dilutes limited audience potential.

I would like to work on ways to encourage exhibitors to try harder to find funds for all to share, or when underfunded, to distribute the burden equitably. I would also like to hear from you about your feelings regarding this, whether you agree with me or not. Perhaps with enough interest we could present a united front (locally, nationally, and internationally) and apply pressure to stop this practice wherever it occurs.

Please write or call me at (617) 323-8146 or 73 Birch St., Roslindale, MA 02131. I'm really curious to know what you think.

Expanded Entertainment will present the Fourth Los Angeles International Animation Celebration. The festival and competition will take place from October 31 - November 7, 1991. Over 400 films from around the world will be screened as well as special tributes, honored guests, and retrospectives.

If you would like to attend, write or call:
Los Angeles International Animation Celebration
2222 S. Barrington Ave.
LA, CA 90064
phone: (213) 473-6701 fax: (213) 444-9850

Sunday Animation Brunch at the Tribeca Grill

by Linda Simensky

New Yorkers who are starved for animation can eat up during Sunday brunch at the Tribeca Grill. The brunch has also become an interesting way for animators to screen their work before the public.

First, a little about the brunch series, which started in August. Each Sunday, the Tribeca Grill, located in Robert Deniro's Tribeca Film Center at 375 Greenwich St., presents 30 minutes of animated short films in their private screening room, complimentary with brunch. There are 3 screenings —1:00, 2:00 & 3:00 — and a short question and answer period follows each screening, often featuring those involved with the production of the films. Approx. 70 -90 People attend each screening.

Animators who have participated or will participate include Sally Cruikshank, Bill Plympton, John Canemaker, Buzzco, Jimmy Picker, Pixar, Mo Willems, John McIntyre, and Lucasfilms, as well as a number of other animators.

The Sunday animation series is an unusual opportunity to see animation on one of the most acoustically advanced environments. The audio system of the Tribeca screening room was designed by George Lucas' audio company, the Lucasfilm, Ltd. Thx Sound System Program. The screening room can accommodate 16mm, 35mm , 1/2", 3/4" and laserdisc.

Karen Carr & Doug Livingston run the Tribeca Grill Animation Brunch and are currently in the process of putting together their fall schedule . They are looking for animated shorts that are geared toward the public, as opposes to the experimental or abstract films.

If you are interested in presenting your work, contact Karen Carr (212) 941-3981 or Doug Livingston (212) 941-3905 for more information. If you are an animation fan planning to spend your Sunday relaxing at brunch, go to the Tribeca Grill (212) 941-3900 and enjoy the screenings!

The schedule is as follows:

OCT 6 - INDEPENDENT ANIMATION

OCT 13 - INDUSTRIAL LIGHT AND MAGIC (LUCASFILMS SPECIAL EFFECTS)

OCT 20 - NICKELODEON

OCT 27 - HBO - TINTIN (TENATIVE)

NOV 3 - BOB KURTZ & FRIENDS

NOV 10 - CLOSED FOR PRIVATE PARTY

NOV 17 - BARKING ART ANIMATION

"Donnell Media Center is presenting a 7 part program devoted to film animation and video image processing, and the increasingly complex relationship between the two. The program, part of the "meet the makers" series begins October 10 and continues every Thursday evening through November 21. Artists to screen and discuss their work include Lewis Klahr (Oct 24), John Schnall (Oct 31) and Irit Batsry (Nov 7). In addition, one program (Nov 14) will present the work of emerging talents.

Screenings will be held in the Donnell Library Center Auditorium, located at 20 W 53rd St. Call Donnell Media Center at (212) 621-0619 or (212) 621-0609 after 12:30 for details.

AISFA-EAST T-SHIRT DESIGN COMPETITION

Call for designs!! - ASIFA-EAST will sponsor a t-shirt design competition to promote our NY chapter. It will be the first time in ASIFA-EAST history that we will have a t-shirt.

RULES:

1- All work must be camera ready
2- The design must include the words ASIFA-EAST
3- The design must be in black ink. We are printing one color only, ie. Black letters on a white tee or white letters on a black tee or any other color to substitute for the color black. You may use halftones.
4- The design must be no larger than 10 inches across and 12 inches deep
5- Winner will be announced and prize awarded at the 1992 ASIFA-EAST Animation Awards in January 1992.

Send all designs with return labels no later than:
NOVEMBER 6, 1991 to:

BUZZCO ASSOCIATES, INC
Attn: ASIFA-EAST T-shirt competition
110 W 40th St
NY, NY 10018
or further information call:
Robert West (215) 435-3910

23rd International Tournee of Animation
19 award winning animated films from around the globe. Asifa-East members Vincent Cafarelli, Candy Kugel, and Bill Plympton have films represented here.
Now playing at Angelika Film Center, Houston St & Mercer St
For more information call: (212) 995-2000

The Festival of Animation
A compilation of some award winning animated films. The work of Asifa-East member, Bill Plympton, will be represented.
Now playing at Cinema Village, 3rd Ave & 12th St
For more information call (212) 505-7320

SEND IN YOUR FILM

Black Maria Film & Video Festival
c/o Department of Media Arts, Jersey City State College
203 West Side Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07305
Entry deadline is November 4, 1991 - For more information call: (201) 200-2043

New York Exposition of Short Film and Video
Deadline would have passed by this printing but the festival is local and will take place this fall. For more information call: (212) 226-7350

The 10th Asbury Festival of Short Films
Deadline is September 25, 1991 and may have passed by this printing. The local festival is held at F.I.T. In October. You may want to call and request an extension. For more information call: (212) 366-1337

Bucks County Independent Short Film Competition
Deadline is September 25, 1991. You may find festivals flexible if you call and let them know how much you would like to participate.
Contact John Toner at (215) 345-5663 (eve)
BUCKS COUNTY FILM TOUR
c/o Smith & Toner
91 E. Court St
Doylestown, PA 18901

"AXELGREASE" sponsored by squeaky wheel in Buffalo. Showcases independent animated shorts on a public access program Call: (716) 884-7172

MTV Animated Storyboard Competition
"World Problems...And Solutions". MTV will commission winners to produce their boards. Deadline October 1, 1991
Call for more information (213) 445-2375

DON'T TRASH OUR FUTURE
Call for animators to contribute 2 to 5 seconds of animation dealing with environmental issues. Deadline is October 1, 1991 (call if you need more time)
Contact Tanya Weinberger (716) 461-3983

The Society for Animation Studies Third Annual Conference honors **Faith Hubley** and will take place in Rochester, NY October 4-6. Over 50 proposals have been evaluated and 30 have been accepted so far. Among the proposals accepted: "FANTASIA REVISTED," "THE USE OF LABIAN ANALYSIS FOR THE DISCUSSION OF COMPUTER ANIMATION," and "COON OR COHEN? ANIMATION AND THE TRANSMUTABLE ETHNIC STEREOTYPE."
For more information call the society: (818) 988-3025